United Nations

Press Release

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- High-level delegation visits Baghdad on behalf of Security Council to ask for prompt and unimpeded access to any military location.

- Secretary-General begins two-day official visit to Germany; holds talks with Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister, and President.

- South Africa accedes to 1968 Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

- Eighth United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine opens in Montreal.

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A High-level Mission consisting of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix; the Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission set up by the Security Council under the Iraq cease-fire resolution 687, Rolf Ekeus; and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Yasushi Akashi, has arrived in Baghdad.

The Mission is to discuss with high officials of the Iraqi Government the recent visit by an inspection team to different locations near Baghdad. The team was refused access to designated sites and witnessed the removal by Iraqi personnel of equipment and materials from such locations to unknown sites.

The Mission will also ask the Iraqi authorities to give the IAEA's inspection team prompt and unimpeded access to any location, and allow inspection of equipment and materials which were removed from two military sites near Baghdad last week.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that the Mission had met with the Iraqi Foreign Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and was scheduled to meet the Prime Minister either this evening or tomorrow morning.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today began a two-day official visit to Germany.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had held talks with Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher which focused on the situation in Yugoslavia, the Iraq/Kuwait situation and the Security Council's resolutions on that subject, as well as the costs of the implementation of those resolutions. The Secretary-General expressed concern for the fate of the Shi'ite population in southern Iraq and briefed the Minister on the deployment of the United Nations Security Guard contingent in Iraq, which he hoped would be completed by mid-July. They also discussed the German proposal for the appointment of a United Nations coordinator for humanitarian affairs, and the Secretary-General briefed the Minister on latest developments in Cyprus.

The Secretary-General also met today with the German President, Richard Von Weizsächer, for talks covering the situation in Yugoslavia, restructuring of the United Nations and various international matters.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar was scheduled to meet tomorrow with leaders of the opposition parties in the Bundestag, and to hold talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

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The South African cabinet has approved the country's accession to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Treaty aims at promoting the process of disarmament by the nuclear nations, and at guaranteeing all countries access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The South African authorities informed IAEA that the accession would take effect as soon as the required constitutional arrangements had been made.

In welcoming the announcement, IAEA Director-General Hans Blix called the approval "highly significant" and a positive development for the future conclusion between IAEA and South Africa of a comprehensive safeguards agreement on all nuclear activities in the country.

Discussions on such an agreement have been held with high-level South African officials in recent months, both at IAEA headquarters in Vienna and in South Africa.

In announcing the cabinet's approval, South African President F.W. de Klerk said his country's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed its commitment not only to take its rightful place in the international community but also to play a positive and constructive role in the process. He said positive developments in the world and the South African region, including the recent accession of Zambia and Tanzania to the Treaty, would now make it possible to achieve a long-standing goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in southern Africa.

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The United Nations North American Regional Symposium of Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine opened its eighth session on Friday in Montreal with a statement by its organizer, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal).

Mrs. Diallo said the Palestinian Rights Committee, established in 1975, had constantly stressed the need to promote a solution based on the creation of two states, in conformity with the 1947 partition plan of Palestine.

Over the years, she said, the Committee had continued and increased its efforts for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices, which would provide the best opportunities for reaching a global, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

She called on the countries of North America to advance the Middle East peace process. Those countries, she said, could have an important influence on opinion and the official policies of countries of the region.

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